

What's New in the MPDC

MAY 7, 2001

CHIEF RAMSEY TAKES ACTION AGAINST 19 OFFICERS IN COMPUTER MESSAGE PROBE

For additional background information on the investigation – including an explanation of Level I-III violations – read Chief Ramsey's recent statement to the DC Council:

www.mpd.org

(Click on News and go to Recent Statements by Chief Ramsey)

Chief Ramsey announced this week that 19 members of the MPDC have been placed in a non-contact status with their police powers revoked, as a result of the ongoing investigation into the improper use of the Department's Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) system. The 19 members include one lieutenant from the Third District, one sergeant from the Fourth District and 17 officers from Districts One through Six. These members are being investigated for allegedly making comments over the MDC e-mail system that were reportedly directed toward the general public and may indicate possible criminal or civil rights violations. These are considered

the most serious "Level I" violations in the ongoing investigation by the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility. The members will remain in non-contact status, working in administrative positions, pending the outcome of the investigation. They could face disciplinary action ranging from an official reprimand to termination. See the complete news release at:

www.mpd.org (Click on News)

WASHINGTON AREA MEMORIAL SERVICE HELPS TO KICK OFF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The MPDC maintains an on-line memorial to officers killed in the line of duty, and invites family, friends and other loved ones of our fallen officers to submit remembrances, which are posted on the site. Access the on-line memorial at:

www.mpd.org

(Click on Heroes of the MPDC)

On Monday, May 7, Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey and representatives of other law enforcement agencies from throughout the Washington metropolitan area come together for the 22nd Annual Memorial Service for Law Enforcement Officers. Sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary, this ceremony honors law enforcement officers from the Washington-Baltimore region who were killed in the line of duty. Eight officers from the region, including Maryland State Police Cpl. Edward Toatley who was killed in Northeast DC last October during an undercover drug operation,

will be memorialized at this year's service. The ceremony begins at 11 am, at the memorial fountain outside MPDC Headquarters, which is named for Sgt. Henry J. Daly, himself killed in the line of duty on November 22, 1994. For more information about the Washington area service, go to:

www.mpd.org (Click on News)

The ceremony honoring fallen officers from the Washington area is a prelude to National Police Week in DC (May 13-19). For complete information about the national observance – including the candlelight vigil May 13th at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on Judiciary Square, NW – please visit the Memorial Fund's Web site:

www.nleomf.com/index1.html

RED-LIGHT RUNNING, FATALITIES CONTINUE SHARP DECLINE

The number of motorists running red lights at DC intersections equipped with red-light cameras continues to decline. Through March 2001, the number of violators captured at these 39 intersections has fallen 59.9 percent, or the equivalent of about 22,700 fewer violations each month. New data also suggest the decline in red-light violations is translating into reductions in related traffic fatalities. The number of fatalities where red-light running was a factor declined from 16 in 1998 and 15 in 1999 to just two in 2000. Learn more about the District's automated traffic enforcement program at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Services & Programs)

Red-light running was the focus of this past week's "Smooth Operator" enforcement wave involving the MPDC and 25 other area law enforcement agencies – the first of four such waves that will take place this spring and summer. Future enforcement waves will focus on speeding, other forms of aggressive driving and pedestrian safety issues. Learn more about "Smooth Operator" at:

www.mpdc.org
(Click on Services & Programs)

A NEW DIRECTION AND SENSE OF SAFETY ON PSA 506

Partnerships for Problem Solving is a key component of the MPDC's community policing strategy, "Policing for Prevention." You can learn more about Policing for Prevention, and how you and your neighbors can get involved, by clicking on:

www.mpdc.org
(Click on Policing for Prevention)

To some people, the problem may not appear that serious. But to the residents of PSA 506, it was a big deal in their community around South Dakota Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. After all, they were the ones who had to deal with the congestion, speeding cars, drivers running red lights, and drivers turning down side streets to avoid lights, along with the confusion of improper traffic signs. It was of significant concern to seniors and residents who rely on public transportation, and to parents who fear that children traveling to school might one day be hit by side-street speeders. Using the Partnerships for Problem Solving process, residents, community leaders, the police and operators of the District's red-light camera program got together, analyzed the problem and developed a strategy. The plan included stepped-up traffic

enforcement, the placement (or replacement) of key traffic signs, and increased community education about traffic and pedestrian safety. The problem has been abated, but the group is now moving on – as a team – to work on other problems in their neighborhood. Read the complete PSA 506 success story at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Policing for Prevention)

REMINDER: DC SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY AVAILABLE ON-LINE, IN DISTRICT STATIONS

Residents are reminded that the District's official Sex Offender Registry is available both on-line (through the MPDC Web site) and in hard copy at all police district stations, Police Headquarters and selected other facilities. The registry includes valuable information, including photographs, of certain convicted sex offenders who have returned to the community. The on-line registry can be searched by a number of entries, including PSA or police district. To access the on-line registry, or to learn about reviewing the hard-copy version, go to

www.mpdc.org

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG